

Chekhov site will add its own resin production plant in the next phase

Schattdecor forges ahead with expansion of treating activities

Schattdecor AG, based in Thansau, Germany, is set to boost its treating capacity to more than 400 million m² by integrating the Malaysian firm Vasatech Sdn. Bhd., based in Bestari Jaya, adding a new treating line to its site in Chekhov, Russia, and installing more treating lines at its existing locations.

The Vasatech facility and its site in São José dos Pinhais, Brazil, will each gain an additional treating line over the coming months. Two more treating lines will be commissioned in Chekhov in addition to the new line that started operating at the end of March 2019. These lines are being transferred from mills in Shatura, Russia, and Shanghai. Once these projects have been completed, Schattdecor will run a total of 19 treating lines at six locations. Five lines are currently in operation in Rosate, Italy. The newest line started operating in the third quarter of 2018. The company also has an option for a sixth treater. The new line will bring Schattdecor's number in São José dos Pinhais to four

in the future. Its locations in Chekhov and Bestari Jaya will each have three lines once the investment projects have been completed. Two lines each treat surfaces in Tyumen, Russia, and at its joint venture Saintdecor, based in Wuhan, China.

Saintdecor's two lines are 4ft wide. The supplier was Imaco Technology Development Co. Ltd., headquartered in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. In the next phase, the impregnating joint venture founded in March 2017 can receive an 8ft-wide treater. Most other lines with working widths between 6ft and 9ft were delivered by Vits Technology GmbH, headquartered in Langenfeld, Germany. In recent years, Schattdecor has also awarded several contracts to Rotodecor GmbH Maschinen- und Anlagenbau, headquartered in Lage, and to Tocchio International s.r.l., based in Vigevano, Italy. Its portfolio mainly encompasses melamine film for coating furniture and flooring board. Two treaters in Rosate and the line transferred from Shanghai to Chekhov also make

post-impregnated products. However, the company no longer makes melamine edging in Shatura.

All treating sites are to be equipped with their own resin production capabilities in the medium term. At present, Schattdecor can make impregnating resins in Tyumen, São José dos Pinhais, Wuhan and Bestari Jaya. Impregnating resin production will be carried out in Chekhov in the next phase. Technology contracts have already been awarded, with commissioning to take place during 2020. A similar project is being explored for Rosate, with a final decision to be made once an environmental permit has been granted. Schattdecor is currently installing a scrubber in Rosate. This technology, delivered by Wessel Umwelttechnik GmbH, based in Hamburg, should clean exhaust air from treating lines in order to reduce formaldehyde emissions.

An agreement to acquire all shares in Vasatech after lengthy negotiations that was inked in the first quarter of 2019 closed at the end of February. The first talks began at the start of 2018. In September, Schattdecor and Vasatech's owners signed a letter of intent. The parties agreed on the terms of the transaction in February 2019. Schattdecor assumed operational management on 1 March. Until now, Vasatech has run two treating lines that have widths of 6 ft and 8 ft. The installation of a third line, which is planned for the year's end, is to boost capacity from about 50 million m² to 70-80 million m². Schattdecor will use a 7ft-wide second-hand line for this



Commissioning of the fourth treating line in São José dos Pinhais is set to happen in the first quarter of 2020. (Photo credit: Schattdecor)

investment project, which it is buying from an unnamed company.

In Chekhov, Schattdecor will install three treating lines in a new 10,700 m² hall by the end of this year. Commissioning of the new line delivered by Rotodecor, which was originally supposed to happen in the third quarter of 2018, dragged on until the end of March. Schattdecor said that this line, PMI 15, faced delays in the delivery of components, some of which were ordered from China. In the next phase, a 7ft-wide Vits line delivered to the Shatura plant in 2008 will move to Chekhov and become PMI 5. Using an ERP coating machine, it can make both laminating and flooring film. However, the relocation should not start until the 7 ft-wide new line has been qualified to make the products manufactured in Shatura to date. Two Vits/Babcock lines are currently operating in Shatura, although they are to be scrapped apart from a few components that can still be sold. Once planned work has been com-

pleted, Schattdecor will hand back the land rented since its 2000 acquisition of treating activities from the furniture collective combine AO MK Schatura by the end of 2019.

In addition to the two treating lines, Schattdecor will also install an impregnating/lacquering line in Chekhov. The company will use a 7ft-wide lacquering line from the Shanghai plant that has no longer been used in recent years in this project. As part of the relocation process, it will add another treating section, several dryers and a screen roller coating machine. Rotodecor and Vits delivered this line to the Chinese facility as PML 4 in 2006. It mainly produced melamine edging and, to a lesser extent, post-impregnated finish foils, until it was mothballed. In 2006, both companies had also installed a largely identical lacquering line at the Brazilian Schattdecor plant, which is still operating until today. Rotodecor started manufacturing lacquering lines with these two projects. Vits had delivered the dryers

for both projects. Following rebuilding and relocation to Chekhov, the treating and lacquering line running as PMI 18 should be used alternately to make finish foils out of pre-impregnated materials and melamine films. Schattdecor lists the total annual capacity of the three treaters envisaged for Chekhov at about 80 million m².

Schattdecor will invest in a fourth treating line in São José dos Pinhais. Like the treater commissioned in March 2015, this line will have a working width of 9 ft. Schattdecor ordered the new line from Vits at the start of May. Commissioning is set to happen in the first quarter of 2020. Schattdecor will have a treating capacity of about 100 million m² in Brazil in the future with its four lines. Alongside work to raise its treating capacity, the company will install a second resin reactor in São José dos Pinhais. In preparation for this project, Schattdecor built a new production hall/warehouse and optimised infrastructure at its treating site during the past year. □

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